PATENT 81800.0154 N THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE re application of: Art Unit: 2622 Examiner: Not Assigned Masaki KOTANI Serial No: 09/837,713 I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States April 17, 2001 Filed: Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS For: Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 TRANSMITTAL OF Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT April 30, 2004 Date of Peposit Shindale/Ferguson Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 April 30, 2004 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 Dear Sirs: 1. The information disclosure statement submitted herewith is being filed within three months of the filing date of the application other than a continued prosecution application, or within three months of the date of entry into the national stage of an international application, or before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits, or before the mailing of a first Office action after the filing of a request for continued examination under §1.114, whichever event occurs last. 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b). The information disclosure statement transmitted herewith is being filed after the period specified in §1.97(b), but before the mailing date of a final action under

§1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the statement. 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e)(2).
OR FEE
Attached is a fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) for submission of an information disclosure statement under §1.97(c). (\$180.00). [OR:] Please charge the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) for submission of an information disclosure statement under §1.97(c) (\$180.00) to Deposit Account No. 50-1314. A copy of this petition is enclosed.
The information disclosure statement transmitted herewith is being filed after the period specified in §1.97(c), but before, or simultaneously with the payment of the issue fee. A statement specified in §1.97(e) and a fee set forth in §1.17(p) are included. 37 C.F.R. §1.97(d).
§1.97(e) STATEMENT
I, the person signing below, state:
that each item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was first cited in the attached communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and that the communication is dated not more than three months prior to the filing of the statement. 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e)(1).
OR
that no item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was known to any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the statement. 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e)(2).
AND FEE
Attached is a fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) for submission of an information disclosure statement under §1.97(d). (\$180.00).
If it should be determined that for any reason either an insufficient fee or an excessive has been paid, please charge any insufficiency or credit any overpayment necessary to ensure consideration of the information disclosure statement for the above-identified application to Deposit Account No. 50-1314. A copy of this petition is enclosed.
A list of 2 reference(s) is in the enclosed Form PTO-1449.

NON-ENGLISH LANGUAGE REFERENCES

\boxtimes	Enclosed is a Japanese language office action for a counterpart application.
	The specification incorporates comments on the relevancy of Non-English language references.
	Set forth below are comments provided by the applicant's home country counsel on the relevancy of non-English language references:

By:

Respectfully submitted,

HOGAN A HARTSON L.L.P.

Date: April 30, 2004

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Anthony J. Orler Registration No. 41,232 Attorney for Applicant(s)

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FORM PTO-1449 INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION IN AN APPLICATION WAY 0 3 2004 (Use several sheets if necessary)			Docket Numbe 81800.	Docket Number (Omnal) Application Number 09/837,713				
			Applicant Masaki KOTANI					
			Filing Date April 30	Filing Date April 30, 2004		Group Art Unit 2622		
MAY 0 3	NOTE OF	U.S. PATENT	DOCUMENTS					
EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE			
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	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	Transla YES	ation NO	
	05-124295	05/21/93	JAPAN			Abstract	,,,,	
	08-163285	06/21/96	JAPAN			Abstract		
							N. Carlotte	
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	OTHER DOCUME	NTS (Including Au	thor, Title, Date, Per	rtinent Pages	, Etc.)			
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EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED	

EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP § 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to the applicant.